

What is claimed is:

1. A guide wire having a distal end and a proximal end comprising:

an elongate core;

a lubricous distal portion;

an intermediate portion, proximal of said distal portion, said intermediate portion being less lubricous than said distal portion; and

a proximal portion proximal of said intermediate portion.

2. A guide wire as recited in claim 1, wherein said guide wire includes a surface, said distal portion surface is hydrophilic, and said intermediate portion surface is hydrophobic.

3. A guide wire as recited in claim 2, wherein said distal portion surface includes a hydrophilic coating.

4. A guide wire as recited in claim 2, wherein said distal portion surface includes a hydrophilic coating, and

said intermediate portion surface includes a hydrophobic coating.

5. A guide wire as recited in claim 4, wherein said proximal portion includes a lubricous coating over said elongate core.

6. A guide wire as recited in claim 5, wherein said proximal lubricous coating is polytetrafluoroethylene.

7. A guide wire as recited in claim 1, wherein said guide wire includes a surface, said distal portion surface is hydrophilic, and said intermediate portion includes a coil around said elongate core.

8. A guide wire as recited in claim 7, said distal portion including a polymeric distal tip having a proximally tapered proximal portion, said coil having a distal end, wherein said coil distal end contacts said distal tip within said tapered portion.

9. A guide wire as recited in claim 7, wherein said intermediate portion coil includes a hydrophobic coating.

10. A guide wire as recited in claim 9, wherein said elongate core is tapered distally within said intermediate portion.

11. A guide wire as recited in claim 10, wherein said coil comprises stainless steel having a silicone coating.

12. A guide wire as recited in claim 10, wherein said coil comprises stainless steel having a polytetrafluoroethylene coating.

13. A guide wire as recited in claim 10, wherein said coil includes a distal tapered portion, said coil tapered portion extending within said guide wire distal portion.

14. A guide wire having a distal end and a proximal end comprising:

an elongate core having a length and a cross section, said core having a distal reduced cross section portion;

a tapered portion proximal of said reduced cross section portion; and

a proximal uniform cross section portion, said core having a surface extending the length thereof, said reduced cross section portion having means for providing low friction, said tapered portion having means for providing higher friction than said reduced cross section portion friction.

15. A guide wire as recited in claim 14, wherein said means for providing higher friction includes a wire coil about said core tapered portion.

16. A guide wire as recited in claim 15, said distal end including a polymeric distal tip having a proximally tapered proximal portion, said coil having a distal end, wherein said coil distal end lies within said distal tip tapered portion.

17. A guide wire as recited in claim 15, wherein said means for providing low friction includes a lubricous layer over said reduced cross section portion surface, and

said coil includes a less lubricous layer over said coil.

18. A guide wire as recited in claim 14, wherein said means for providing low friction includes a lubricous layer over said reduced cross section portion surface; and

said means for providing higher friction includes a less lubricous layer over said tapered portion surface.

19. A guide wire as recited in claim 18 wherein said lubricous layer includes a hydrophilic material.

20. A guide wire as recited in claim 18, wherein said less lubricous layer includes a hydrophobic material.

21. A guide wire having a distal end, a proximal end, a length, and a surface extending over said length comprising:

an elongate core;
a distal portion;
an intermediate portion proximal of said distal portion;
means for providing low friction over said distal portion
surface; and

means for providing higher friction over said
intermediate portion surface, said higher friction being
higher than said distal portion friction.